

Appin. No. 08/627,741
Amdt. dated July 16, 2003
Reply to Office action of April 17, 2003

Docket No. FR9-1999-0108-US1

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10/16/03**REMARKS**

These remarks are set forth both in response to the non-final office action mailed April 17, 2003 (the "Office Action"). As this amendment has been timely filed within the three-month statutory period, neither an extension of time nor a fee is required.

Presently, claims 1 through 10 are pending in the Patent Application. In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, each has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,195,696 to Baber et al. ("Baber"). Additionally, in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the form of the specification in respect to several grammatical errors. In response, the Applicant through undersigned counsel has amended the specification and claims both to reflect proper grammar and to better distinguish the invention over the cited art.

Prior to addressing the rejections on the art, a brief review of the Applicant's invention will be appropriate. The Applicant has invented a new and non-obvious server assisted system for accessing web pages from a personal data assistant (PDA). The system can include three components: a PDA, a portal server and a user workstation, generally a personal computer (PC). The PDA can be configured with a web browser for browsing portal web content through the limited display of the PDA. The portal web content itself can be produced by the portal server through an aggregation of web content sources across the global Internet and even with one or more local Intranets. Importantly, the mix of content included in the portal web content can be selectively chosen by the end user and stored in a user database such that when the end user attempts to link with the portal server through the PDA, the user preferences stored in

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the user database can be applied to customize the portal view produced in the display of the PDA.

As shown in Figure 5 of the Patent Application, to configure the portal server with individual user preferences, the end user can graphically select fields of specified web pages for use in a portal view. The selection can occur either within a PDA view, or a PC view. In either case, the field can be graphically selected by the end user, for instance, using a mouse pointing device. Subsequently, the selected field can be converted into the portal structure for viewing in the PDA. Notably, the converted field can have a PDA representation that may be shown in the PDA and which can be transmitted using a minimum of bandwidth such as compressed bitmap or simple text. Importantly, the portal server can include both a portal back server and a portal real time server.

The portal back server can update the values of selected fields for a portal view within the user database in order to provide a faster download when a PDA portal browser requests a portal page. In this regard, the portal back server can behave as a caching component. The portal real time server, by comparison, can retrieve content for use in a customized portal view on demand. In this way, content graphically selected for inclusion with a portal page can be retrieved over the network in a most efficient manner without regard for the ordering of the content in the markup of the portal page. Such would otherwise have been the case in regard to conventional processing of markup language documents such as those defined by the hypertext markup language.

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Turning now to the rejections on the art, the Examiner has rejected each of claims 1 through 10 based upon the recitation of Baber. Baber relates to the creation and management of a portal view which can be customized for individual users of the portal. Customizable elements of the view include searching content, real time content such as stock quotes, programmatic content, such as a calculator, and textual content such as hyperlinks to other web pages. The views can be customized using a subscription model for a variety of circumstances including those circumstances relating to limited display devices such as palmtop computers. Yet, the customization of the content in the portal bears no relation to the efficient delivery of the content itself. Rather, the customization of the content in Baber mostly pertains to the contextual mix of content.

Importantly, content delivered to individual users is pre-defined as "units of content". The units of content are configured for use with particular servers and are not selectably configurable by the end users themselves. Rather, the units of content which can be included within a portal page in Baber must be defined and pre-configured by a server administrator. In this regard, Baber differs substantially from the invention disclosed in the Patent Application. In accordance with the Applicant's invention, content designated for inclusion in a portal page can be so designated not by the server administrator, but by the end user using a graphical selection process as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 of the Patent Application. Moreover, such preferences can be stored on an individual basis for the benefit of the end user. Additionally, by referencing real time and non-real time elements of a portal page in separate portal components, at

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least the non-real time components can be updated off-line so as to accelerate the delivery of the portal page.

The marked distinction between the Applicant's invention and the technology described in Baber has been considered in the amendments to each of the claims 1 through 10. Specifically, the terms "graphically" and "user" have been added to independent claim 1 to emphasize that the fields of the web pages for use in the portal page can be graphically selected for inclusion in the portal page by the end user, and that the selections can be stored in a user database. Support for these claim amendments can be found in page 7, lines 6 through 23 of the Patent Application. Accordingly, by virtue of the Applicant's amendments, no new matter has been added.

It will be of note to the Examiner, that the Patent Application initially had been produced abroad outside of the United States. Recognizing the difficulties of producing a clear translation of the Patent Application without grammatical error, the Applicant through undersigned counsel not only has amended portions of the specification at the Examiner's request, but also the undersigned has amended claims 1 through 10 cosmetically to produce a more traditional structure which conforms with United States patent practice. These cosmetic adjustments to the claims have been performed for the benefit of the Examiner for the purpose of enhancing the examinability of each claim.

In conclusion, the Applicant believes that the amended claims 1 through 10 distinguish over the cited art and stand patentable and ready for an indication of allowance. To that end, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and § 102(e) based upon the Applicant's amendments to the specification and claims, and owing to the foregoing remarks. This entire

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application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, such action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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Steven M. Greenberg, Registration No. 44,725
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 400
Post Office Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Telephone: (561) 659-5000